

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/012982

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-18 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 1-4, 7-14, 17-24, 27-30 as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets fig. 1-12 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, nos. 5, 6, 15, 16, 25, 26
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-4, 7-10, 11-14, 17-20, 21-24, 27-30</u>	YES
	Claims	<u></u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>10, 20, 30</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-4, 7-9, 11-14, 17-19, 21-24, 27-29</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-4, 7-10, 11-14, 17-20, 21-24, 27-30</u>	YES
	Claims	<u></u>	NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
<p>Novelty</p> <p>The invention set forth in claims (hereinafter referred to as "C") 1-4, 7-10, 11-14, 17-20, 21-24 and 27-30 is not disclosed in any of the documents cited in the international search report and is, therefore, novel.</p> <p>Inventive Step</p> <p>The invention set forth in C1-4, 7-9, 11-14, 17-19, 21-24 and 27-29 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1-8 cited in the international search report. Document 1 discloses the same invention as is set forth in C1-4, 7-9, 11-14, 17-19, 21-24 and 27-29. As illustrated by fig. 1, 4 and 12 of document 1, the invention disclosed in document 1 displays the current partial image and at least a part of the mosaic image (see, in particular, fig. 1, 4 and 12). The feature set forth in C2, 12 and 22 wherein each of the image conversion parameters is set to a suitable value is disclosed in documents 2 and 3 and the feature set forth in C3, 13 and 23 wherein a high resolution image is generated using a mosaic image is disclosed in document 4, hence both features were known prior to the priority</p>			

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date of the present application. Please refer to documents 5 and 6 in reference to the image display in C8, 18 and 28 and please see documents 7 and 8 in relation to the image display in documents 7 and 8.

The invention set forth in C10, 20 and 30 involves an inventive step in relation to the documents cited in the international search report. None of the cited documents discloses the feature wherein an image is displayed in which the colour is adjusted according to the numbers of layers of partial image. Moreover, it would not be easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of this feature from the feature disclosed in document 8, in which different types of gradation are applied to overlapping regions.

Industrial Applicability

The invention set forth in C1-4, 7-10, 11-14 and 17-20 relates to an image synthesising system and an image synthesising method and is, thus, industrially applicable. The invention set forth in C21-24 and 27-30 relates to a programme for operating an image synthesising process on a computer and is, thus, industrially applicable.

Cited Documents:

1. JP 2000-244814 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 8 September 2000
2. JP 2001-14444 A (Topcon Corp.), 19 January 2001
3. JP 6-303561 A (Sony Corp.), 28 October 1994
4. JP 10-69537 A (NEC Corp.), 10 March 1998
5. JP 10-164563 A (Canon Inc.), 19 June 1998
6. JP 11-88767 A (Sony Corp.), 30 March 1999
7. JP 2-178646 A (Canon Inc.), 11 July 1990

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PCT/JP2004/012982

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
8.	JP 5-46718 A (Kowa Co., Ltd.), 26 February 1993